Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

~~sending an upgrade package over a computer network;~~

receiving, at a network device, ~~the~~ an upgrade package over a computer network sent from a client device, the upgrade package including a flash erase file and upgrade software; and ~~in a network device; and~~

automatically upgrading internal software of a peripheral device installed in the network device by appending contents of the flash erase file to a packet header, the packet header containing instructions for the peripheral device for overwriting contents of software in the peripheral device, and by transferring the packet header and the upgrade software to the peripheral device by a connection. ~~using the upgrade package, the upgrade package including a flash erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral device and software for updating the peripheral device.~~

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 including recognizing the received package as an upgrade package based on information contained in the upgrade package.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 including recognizing the received package based on a filename extension associated with the package.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically upgrading the internal software includes:

opening a communications channel to the peripheral device; and

updating the peripheral device with contents of the upgrade package.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein upgrading the peripheral device includes:

setting the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

parsing contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device; and

transferring the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein setting the peripheral device to an upgrade mode includes issuing a command to the peripheral device.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 including sending a message indicating success or failure of the upgrade to a source of the upgrade package.

9. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a computer network;

a network device coupled to the network; and

a peripheral device installed within the network device;

wherein the network device comprises a processor configured to:

receive over the network an upgrade package ~~over the network~~ that includes a flash erase file and upgrade software to update the peripheral device;

append contents of the flash erase file to a packet header, the packet header containing instructions for the peripheral device to overwrite contents of software in the peripheral device; and

transfer the packet header and the upgrade software to the peripheral device by a connection to automatically upgrade the peripheral device. ~~and automatically upgrade the peripheral device using the upgrade package, the upgrade package including a flash erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral device and software for updating the peripheral device.~~

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is configured to upgrade the peripheral device's internal software with the package.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the network device is configured to recognize the received package as an upgrade package based on information contained in the package.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the network device is configured to recognize the received package as an upgrade package based on a filename extension associated with the package.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is configured to:

open a communications channel to the peripheral device; and

upgrade the peripheral device with contents of the upgrade package.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the processor is configured to:

set the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

parse contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device; and

transfer the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to set the peripheral device to the upgrade mode by issuing a command to the peripheral device.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is configured to send a message indicating success or failure of the upgrade to a source of the upgrade package.

18. (Currently amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

recognize a received package as an upgrade package intended for a peripheral device installed in a network device, the upgrade package including a flash erase file and upgrade software;

append contents of the flash erase to a packet header, the packet header containing instructions for the peripheral device to overwrite contents of software in the peripheral device; and

transfer the packet header and the upgrade software to the peripheral device by a connection to automatically upgrade internal software in the peripheral device. ~~; and automatically upgrade internal software in the peripheral device using the upgrade package, the upgrade package including a flash erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral device and software for updating the peripheral device.~~

19. (Original) The article of claim 18 including instructions for causing the computer system to recognize the received package as an upgrade package based on information contained in the package.

20. (Original) The article of claim 18 including instructions for causing the computer system to:

open a communications channel to the peripheral device; and

upgrade the peripheral device with contents of the upgrade package.

21. (Original) The article of claim 20 including instructions for causing the computer system to:

set the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

parse contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device; and

transfer the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

22. (Original) The article of claim 21 including instructions for causing the computer system to issue a command to the peripheral device in order to set the peripheral device to the upgrade mode.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Original) The article of claim 18 including instructions for causing the computer system to send a message indicating success or failure of the upgrade.

25. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a port for coupling the apparatus to a network;

a peripheral device installed in the apparatus; and

a processor;

wherein the processor is configured to:

receive an upgrade package through the port, the upgrade package including a flash erase file and upgrade software;

append contents of the flash erase file to a packet header, the packet header containing instructions for the peripheral device to overwrite contents of software in the peripheral device; and

transfer the packet header and the upgrade software to the peripheral device by a connection to automatically upgrade internal software of the peripheral device. ~~and automatically upgrade internal software of the peripheral device using the upgrade package, the upgrade package including a flash erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral device and software for updating the peripheral device.~~

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processor is configured to recognize the received package as an upgrade package based on information contained therein.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the processor is configured to recognize the received package based on a filename extension associated with the package.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processor is configured to:

set the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

parse contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device; and

transfer the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the processor is configured to issue a command to cause the peripheral device to enter the upgrade mode.

30. (Canceled).

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein upgrading the internal software of the peripheral device occurs independently of a particular type of operating system on the client device.